

**METHOD FOR PROVIDING INCENTIVE TO PLAY GAMING DEVICES  
CONNECTED BY A NETWORK TO A HOST COMPUTER**

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

5 A method for providing incentive to players of networked slot  
machines includes a card reader associated with each machine and a  
card associated with each player. A player account accessible by a host  
computer on the network is created which associates the player's card  
with the account. A predetermined credit is applied to the player's  
10 account. In a complementary incentive, credit from the player's  
account is applied to the coin-in meter of a slot machine responsive to  
insertion of the player card into a card reader associated with the  
machine. In a matching incentive also implemented by the present  
invention, each time the player inserts a coin into the slot machine, an  
equal credit is debited from the player's account and applied to the  
15 coin-in meter of the machine. In both cases, the credit can only be used  
by the player to play the machines and cannot be cashed out ~~by the~~  
player.

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